

INTRODUCING H.R. 218, THE
COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing my legislation to permit qualified current and former law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction. This measure is called the Community Protection Act, and I have requested that it be assigned the same bill number as in previous Congresses—H.R. 218.

The Community Protection Act provides three benefits to our police and to our country.

First, it effectively provides thousands more trained cops on the beat—at zero taxpayer cost.

Second, it enables current and former law enforcement officers to protect themselves and their families from criminals. When a criminal completes his or her sentence, that criminal can find where their arresting officer lives, where their corrections officer travels, and other information about our brave law enforcement personnel and their families.

And, third, it helps keep our communities safer from criminals.

This measure is very similar to the H.R. 218 reported by the Judiciary Committee in the 106th Congress.

Members and the public interested in additional background information on the Community Protection Act, I encourage them to read the Judiciary Committee report accompanying H.R. 218 from the 105th Congress (H. Rept. 105-819), my testimony before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Tuesday, July 22, 1997, or my statement from introduction in the 106th Congress on January 6, 1999.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important common sense anti-crime legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MARK MIODUSKI

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, there are many people in this institution who work tirelessly and often thanklessly in order to improve the lives of the people we serve. Those who benefit from their work will never recognize their faces or know their names and day after day and year after year they produce a better country. Today, I rise to pay special tribute to one of them. I offer my most sincere gratitude to Mark Mioduski who has recently left the minority staff of the House Appropriations Committee after fourteen years of distinguished service to the federal government.

For the past five years, Mark Mioduski has been my right-hand man on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill. He has applied a unique blend of technical know how from both budgetary and parliamentary standpoints, creativity and high energy to staffing this important bill. As many people know, the Labor, HHS bill is one of the

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most difficult appropriations bills to manage and is usually one of the last appropriations bills to pass. Mark has been instrumental in helping to navigate and negotiate numerous high profile and tricky issues affecting the Department of Labor, including funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the recently published ergonomics regulation. In fact, Mark has lived and breathed the ergonomics issue over the last five years and knows the issue better than virtually anyone else on Capitol Hill. In addition, Mark has made significant contributions to a wide range of health and education issues, including working to expand funding for health care access, for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, for AIDS and emerging infectious diseases, for Low-Income Energy Assistance, for Head Start, for the Social Services Block Grant, and for Pell Grants for disadvantaged students. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Education also owe him a debt of gratitude for his detailed attention to their programs and appropriations requests.

Mark has spent most of his career in public service. He began his federal service after being selected to participate in the Presidential Management Intern Program, which is designed to attract the best and brightest to the federal government. He then spent four years with the Interior Department as a senior budget analyst before joining the staff of the House Appropriations Committee. For the last decade he has worked on the Appropriations Committee and, he has been of great assistance to many members and their staffs. I am sure a good many of you saw him as he wore a path to and from the Capitol often carrying his signature workbag which was passed down to him by his father.

Mr. Speaker, I have greatly appreciated the job that Mark has done with humility and good humor over the years. Mark has been not only an outstanding public servant, but also he is an outstanding human being. He cares a great deal about the well being of this country and the people in it who rely on those of us in government to help make this a better place for everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. Not many of those Americans know his name or know the countless hours he has devoted to his job, but he can leave this institution knowing that many, many Americans and their families have been benefitted from his efforts.

He, like all of us, has been a public servant and he has measured up to the meaning of that term in the fullest possible measure. America's health care system with all its shortcomings provides more help for more deserving Americans because he has worked here. The National Institutes of Health are stronger and the research it oversees is better because he has worked here. Public health programs, not just in this country, but abroad provide more protection to millions of children and adults because he has worked here. Worker protection programs are better able to improve the safety and health of workers, and working families throughout this country have been able to take advantage of additional training and education to improve their livelihood because he has worked here.

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Mark's dedication to the Appropriations Committee and to his work has resulted in many long hours. There were weeks on end when I am sure that Mark did not see much of his family. Mark's departure is a great loss for me as well as the Committee, but I hope that he will be able to spend more time with his wife Lori Whitehand and his two young sons, Ryan and Eric. I wish him the very best in his new endeavors and much success in this new chapter of his career.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment to ensure that students can choose to pray in school. Regrettably, the notion of the separation of church and state has been widely misrepresented in recent years, and the government has strayed far from the vision of America as established by the Founding Fathers.

Our Founding Fathers had the foresight and wisdom to understand that a government cannot secure the freedom of religion if at the same time it favors one religion over another through official actions. Their philosophy was one of even-handed treatment of the different faiths practiced in America, a philosophy that was at the very core of what their new nation was to be about. Somehow, this philosophy is often interpreted today to mean that religion has no place at all in public life, no matter what its form. President Reagan summarized the situation well when he remarked, "The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny." And this is what voluntary school prayer is about, making sure that prayer, regardless of its denomination, is protected.

There can be little doubt that no student should be forced to pray in a certain fashion or be forced to pray at all. At the same time, a student should not be prohibited from praying, just because he/she is attending a public school. This straightforward principle is lost on the liberal courts and high-minded bureaucrats who have systematically eroded the right to voluntary school prayer, and it is now necessary to correct the situation through a constitutional amendment. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and make a strong statement in support of the freedom of religion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT OFFICE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my distinguished colleague, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, in introducing